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*IN THE course of the last decade, Finnish chart-toppers Nightwish have acquired a **major** name on the international hard rock scene, picking up gold & platinum awards and playing sold-out shows around the world... and **this** is where it all started!*

*The brainchild of keyboard player Tuomas Holopainen, a man with an essentially other-worldly view and the musical/lyrical skill to communicate that vision, the Nightwish sound was pretty much in place from day one – a winning combination of strong melodies, soaring vocals plus a very real sense of wonder.*

*'Angels Fall First' (1997): the sound of a career about to explode.*

# Nightwish



## Angels Fall First


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EMPPU VUORINEN: electric, acoustic and bass guitar  
JUKKA NEVALAINEN: drums & percussion  
TUOMAS HOLOPAINEN: synths, vocals  
TARJA TURUNEN: vocals

## *~ Angels Fall First ~*

*"What was supposed to be no more than a demo recording ended up becoming our debut album back in '97.*

*"Reflecting on those times now, I hear a cute little effort full of youthful ambition and an ignorance of what is to come. 'Elvenpath' still retains its childish charm, and 'Angels Fall First' has one of the best lyrics in any of our songs.*

*"Roots can always be traced back to a particular place, and innocence - which is essentially the spirit of this album - can never be found again."*



**Tuomas Holopainen**





## Elvenpath

Hearing music from the deepest forest  
Songs as a seduction of sirens  
The elf-folk is calling me

Tapio, Bearking, Ruler of the forest  
Mielikki, Bluecloak, Healer of the ill and sad  
Open the gate and let me follow the uncarven path

The way to the lands  
Where as a hero I stand  
The path where Beauty met the Beast  
Elvenpath  
It's the honesty of these worlds  
Ruled by magic and mighty swords  
That makes my soul long for the past  
Elvenpath

The moonwitch took me for a ride on a broomstick  
Introduced me to her old friend Home Gnome  
Told me to keep the sauna warm for him

At the grove I met the rest—the folk of my fantasies  
Bilbo, Sparhawk, goblins and pixies,  
Snowman, Willow, trolls and the seven dwarfs  
The path goes forever on

*(Repeat chorus)*

As I return to my room  
And as sleep takes me by my hand  
Madrigals from the woods  
Carry me to neverland  
In this spellbound night  
The world's an elvish sight

## Beauty And The Beast

Remember the first dance we shared?  
Recall the night you melted my ugliness away?  
The night you left with a kiss so kind  
Only a scent of beauty left behind

Ah, dear friend I remember the night  
The moon and the dreams we shared  
Your trembling paw in my hand  
Dreaming of that northern land  
Touching me with a kiss of a beast

I know my dreams are made of you  
Of you and only for you  
Your ocean pulls me under  
Your voice tears me asunder  
Love me before the last petal falls

As a world without a glance  
Of the ocean's fair expanse  
Such the world would be  
If no love did flow in thee  
But as my heart is occupied  
Your love to me now has to die  
Forgive me, I need more than you can offer me

Didn't you read the tale  
Where happily ever after was to kiss a frog?  
Don't you know this tale  
In which all I ever wanted I'll never have  
For who could ever learn to love a beast?

However cold the wind and rain  
I'll be there to ease up your pain  
However cruel the mirrors of sin  
Remember, beauty is found within

...Forever shall the wolf in me desire the sheep in you...



## *The Carpenter*

Who are you?  
Man condemned to shine a salvation  
throughout the centuries

Why?  
Was the wine of the grail  
too sour for man to drink

The carpenter  
carved his anchor  
on the dying souls of mankind  
On the tomb of this unknown soldier  
lay the tools of the one  
who for us had died  
Tools of the carpenter

The one they lick  
The same old sick  
dream of their precious saviour

Kiss them deep and  
make them weep  
over promises of eternal peace

*(Repeat chorus)*

I hear you  
through the symphonic voices of nature  
- the purity I could never doubt  
They tell me to lie on the grass  
and observe my saviour  
The one crucified to the chirping of birds

*(Repeat chorus)*

## *Astral Romance*

A nocturnal concerto  
candlelight whispers me where to go  
Hymn of gathering stars as my guide  
whilst I wander on this path of the night

Embroidery of the stars  
undress my feelings for this earth  
Send me your salva to heal my scars  
and let this nakedness be my birth

Macrocosm poured its powers on me  
And the hopes of this world I now must leave  
The nightwish I sent you centuries ago  
has been heard by those  
who dwelled in a woe

The distance of our bridal bed  
Await for me to be dead  
Dust of the galaxies take my hand  
Lead me to my beloved's land

Departed by the guillotine of death  
I received a letter from the depth  
The dream of my lover it carried inside

Caressed by the sharpest knife  
I asked you to be my wife  
Rays of the setting sun  
were my tears wept upon promises undone

Come to me, make me believe  
to you and your love again

Above the universe  
Beneath the Great Eye  
I shall desire you forevermore





## *A Return To The Sea*

A star falls down from the darkened sky  
Where new worlds born and die  
Kingdom Animalia watches its approaching glow  
What it means is soon to be known

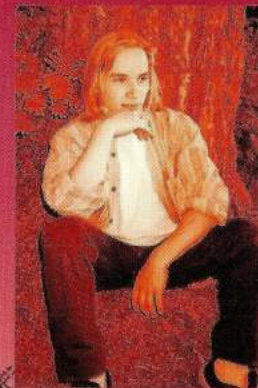
Beneath the lovely birch honey makers  
build their nest in peace

On the savannah a lion licks a wounded gun  
To honour this moment even the heavens cease  
Giant spiders learn how to swim  
With whales they form a united kin

Snakes say hello to the rats on the ground  
In the meadows play merrily the fox and the hound

Trilobite and Anymalocharis  
The prey and the hunter  
Survival of the fittest  
Fall of Man

Seadrops foam all empty human skulls  
Those on the shores of Atlantis  
Darwin's resurrection is witnessed  
By turtles he used to play with  
Healed and happy. She oversees  
The Mother  
The tyrant's return to the sea



## *Nightwish*



## Angels Fall First

An angelface smiles to me  
under a headline of tragedy  
That smile used to give me warmth  
Farewell – no words to say  
beside the cross on your grave  
and those forever burning candles

Needed elsewhere  
to remind us of the shortness of our time  
Tears laid for them  
Tears of love, tears of fear  
Bury my dreams. Dig up my sorrows  
Oh, Lord why  
the angels fall first

Not relieved by thoughts of Shangri-La  
Nor enlightened by lessons of Christ  
I'll never understand the meaning of the right  
Ignorance lead me into the light

*(Repeat chorus)*

Sing me a song  
of your beauty  
of your kingdom  
Let the melodies of your harps  
caress those whom we still need

Yesterday we shook hands  
My friend  
Today a moonbeam lightens my path  
My guardian

## Tutankhamen

As the sun sets beyond the pyramids  
To greet me with its rays  
I place my hand on my forehead  
To see your chariots' flames

Watch me kneel before you  
Hear the cats meowing in the temple  
They yearn the milk you cascaded  
As I yearn that promised treasure

Treasure of  
Tutankhamen  
I am the one it is  
Take me with you  
Through the stargate  
To the valley of the kings

Sacrifice me  
Tutankhamen  
And let me be your queen  
Take me  
Tonight and always  
We'll breed to fill all earth

Three millenniums it took me to guard your rest  
Your slumber in mighty Phoenix's nest  
But tonight the darkness in the tomb has perished  
For Carter has come to free my beloved

*(Repeat chorus)*



## *Nymphomaniac Fantasia*

The scent of a woman was not mine...

Welcome home, darling, did you miss me?  
Wish to dwell in dear love?

Touch my milklike skin. Feel the ocean  
Lick my deepest. Hear the starry choir

Rip off this lace that keeps me imprisoned  
But beware the enchantment for my eroticism is your oblivion

Old love lies deep, you said  
Deeper shall be the wound between your legs

## *Know Why The Nightingale Sings*

What does the free fall feel like?  
Asks the boy with a spark in his eye  
Know why the nightingale sings?  
Is the answer to everything

Taking a step to a world unbound  
Spinning my fantasies all around  
Freed from the gravital leash  
I swear the heaven's in my reach

Dancing with the spirit of the air  
In this ocean so open and fair  
Making love to the gods above  
On my maiden voyage so bold

Landing safely to the blue lagoon  
Don't know if this is the earth or the moon  
Joy of living is no more a mask. Migrating with the geese  
My soul has finally found peace  
Doesn't matter that man has no wings  
As long as hear the nightingale sing...

## *Lappi (Lapland)*

### *1 ~ Erämaajärvi*

Kautta erämaajärven  
matkaa kulkuri yksinäinen  
Näkee lammella joutsenparven  
vapauttaan itkevän

Kaipuu menneisyyden  
kiirii ilmassa huutoina kotkien  
lkijärveltä turvatulta  
käy matka vuorten taa

### *2 ~ Witchdrums*

### *3 ~ This Moment Is Eternity*

Day possesses no key here  
where moon sheds the cold twilight  
This moment is eternity

Land of beauty,  
cold and cruel  
Fjeld chants echoing,  
reflecting the melancholy...

Trust the wind  
Trust the fires  
Call for the hermit of the night

Land of raven and bear  
Land of eagle and wolverine

Dismal are the mirrors of a wolf

### *4 ~ Etiäinen*



## THE BEGINNING. IN FAIRY TALE TERMS, THE 'ONCE UPON A TIME' RELEASE...

THE YEAR was 1997, and Tuomas Holopainen – the keyboard player with Nattvindens Grat – had a tough decision to make. One that was driving him to distraction. His band was sharing a tour bus with Spinefarm Records act Babylon Whores, whose rhythm guitarist, Ewo Pohjola, was also doing A&R work for the label. In this capacity, Ewo had taken a big bag of demos on the road with him – the vast majority of which were flying unceremoniously out of the tour bus window!

Tuomas had put together a demo tape himself – the first fruits of a new project he'd been working on under the banner of Nightwish. He was keen to play these recordings to Ewo, but was naturally concerned that his hard work might end up being crushed under the wheels of a following juggernaut. Finally, after many hours pacing up and down (as much as you can on a tour bus, anyway), he decided to put himself on the line. The Nightwish demo was duly handed over, and the rest – as they say – is hard rock history.

Actually, that's not quite right. In its very earliest incarnation, Nightwish was more of an acoustic project, and it was this fact, ironically, that made its survival all the more likely. Having had their collective ears beaten into bloody pulp by a seemingly endless stream of death metal demos, all of them big on posturing but short on ideas (prime highway fodder, in fact), Ewo and his impromptu listening panel were ready for something different – something with its own sense of identity and a singer who wasn't gargling nails.

During the course of that tour, the Nightwish tape became a firm in-transit fave, with 'The Carpenter' in particular never failing to draw praise plus a respectful raising of glass or bottle. As a result, Ewo suggested that Nightwish make an album for Spinefarm – an offer that

was swiftly and gratefully accepted, even though the contributors to the project were generally tied up in other areas: national service in terms of Tuomas and the guys and operatic commitments in terms of Tarja.

Despite this, however, plus an untimely injury to drummer Jukka, the first Nightwish outing was released in Finland later the same year; a limited edition pressing of just 500 copies, with seven tracks included. For the next pressing, a further selection of songs was added, and by 2001 (buoyed up by a supportive local media) the album had reached gold status. Inevitably, it was tour bus stalwart 'The Carpenter' that had been given the nod as first single/video – a track that remained on the charts for a full 19 weeks, peaking at No. 5.

*'Surely there can't be another band in the world as exotic as this?'* wrote local paper *Karjalainen*, and there was no doubt that 'Angels Fall First' – recorded at the previously untried Huvikeskus Studio in Kitee – had put Nightwish on the map. For the follow-up, 'Oceanborn', things were to develop in a *seriously* big way, but there was a naivety and a charm to this debut (reflected in Tuomas including his home address on the original packaging!) that instantly made a connection, both in Finland and beyond.

With TH helping out on vocals and guitarist Emppu filling in on bass, 'Angels...' saw Nightwish laying the foundations for what was soon to become a signature sound, and by the Spring of 1998 they were out on the road (joined by bassist Samppa Hirvonen) nervously adding the visual side to their fast unfolding story.

**There could be no turning back now.**

*Dante Bonutto*  
**Spinefarm Records UK**

"Bury my dreams.  
Dig up my sorrows  
Oh, Lord why  
the angels fall first"



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